



**Attorney General
Justice
Office of the Minister**

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February 18, 2022

The Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety Canada
Public Safety Canada
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Dear Minister Mendicino:

Re: Police Resources Redeployment from Nova Scotia – *Emergency Management Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c.22

I am writing today regarding the potential request for additional resources from provinces and territories to support a coordinated response to the Freedom Convoy protests in Ottawa. I understand that such a request has been placed by RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa, directly to the 'H' Division, RCMP without consultation with the province. Based on a meeting on February 17th between my Deputy Minister and Acting Commanding Officer, H Division, and their respective senior staff, I understand further requests are contemplated. I am concerned that a draw down of provincial policing resources would compromise public safety in the province.

The convoy protests have direct impacts across the country. Nova Scotia has proactively collaborated with a broad number of stakeholder groups to ensure robust preparedness and enforcement strategies for planned protests within our borders. This has included cross-agency operational planning, intergovernmental coordination, proactive communications, and the implementation of Directives under Nova Scotia's *Emergency Management Act*, S.N.S.1990, c.8. Our response has also included the significant deployment of uniformed police resources to ensure high visibility. We have been successful in this endeavour to ensure our critical infrastructure is not impacted, and our roadways and highways remain unblocked. This success is directly related to our ability to coordinate and organize our finite resources in a manner that supports public safety for all Nova Scotians.

Nova Scotia is a small province with limited resources. We have worked diligently with our government and police partners to keep our province safe. The mass casualty events of April 2020 have understandably resulted in heightened sensitivities respecting policing and public safety for citizens of this province. It is my responsibility as the Minister of Justice to ensure adequate policing across Nova Scotia, and this

includes specialized resources such as Emergency Response Teams, Public Order Units, and Critical Incident Commanders.

Should a request come, I would expect compliance with the contractual and legislative provisions that ensure the appropriate coordination and consultations occur. Pursuant to Article 9.4 of the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA), a request for additional resources would require consultation between the Commissioner and myself, for the withdrawal of up to 10% of contract resources. Section 20 of the *Emergency Management Act*, R.S.C. 1985 is also clear that the declaration of the public order emergency, and any order or regulation made pursuant to it, does not derogate from a province's or municipality's control or direction of any police force over which it normally has control or direction, including the RCMP.

It is my position as Minister of Justice and Attorney General that any withdrawal of provincial resources from Nova Scotia may significantly impact our ability to maintain public safety and adequate levels of policing for communities. As the authority for the control and direction of the provincial government over police forces within Nova Scotia, I am not supportive of any withdrawal of resources; human, equipment, or otherwise. That said, I understand ten Public Order Officers may have already been deployed.

I appreciate the significant challenges faced by you and other federal and provincial colleagues and, while I am supportive, consideration must be given to our public safety needs and the need to avoid the undue shifting of risk to Nova Scotia.

I trust you will receive this letter in the spirit of our joint commitment for the safety and security of all Canadians. I welcome the opportunity to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Johns", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad Johns
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

cc. Brenda Lucki, RCMP Commissioner